(b) if so, the details of suggestions made therein and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A three day seminar on Environment Management Systems (ISO 14000) was organised by the Chandigarh regional Office of the National Productivity Council. During the seminar suggestions were made for creating awareness among the industries regarding the requirements of Environment management Systems and certification for ISO 14000. The ISO 14000 has been notified by the International Standards Organisation in October 1996. India is one of the member bodies in the International Standards Organisation and is actively participating in the development of ISO standards.

CAG Report on Ganga Action Plan

2153. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG in his report has indicated the Government for wasting money earmarked for Ganga Action Plan for building unnecessary guest houses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the State Governments have diverted the money meant for Ganga Action Plan for other purposes; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard and how Government plan to ensure proper utilisation of money earmarked for Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General in his report for the period upto March, 1994 on the Ganga Action Plan has observed about the construction of a guest house at Hardwar at a cost of Rs. 5.00 lakhs as an irregular expenditure. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to recoup this expenditure.

(b) and (c) there are diversion of funds meant for the Ganga Action Plan in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The two Governments have been asked to recoup the diverted funds. In order to ensure proper utilisation of money earmarked for the Ganga Action Plan, unsanctioned expenditure, if any, incurred by the State Governments are disallowed.

Declining Population of Royal Bengal Tigers

2154. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in November 1996, the House of Commons had expressed its concern over the declining population of Royal Bengal Tiger in the country and had asked the Government to give highest priority to protect the tigers facing extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Though the reports to this effect had appeared in the Press, any official communication is yet to be received by the Government. It would, therefore be, premature to offer any comments in this matter.

पशुओं के अधिकार

2155. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पशु अधिकार लीग द्वारा 1978 में बनाए गए पशु अधिकारों की सार्वजनिक घोषणा किए जाने की जानकारी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार का इसे स्वीकार करने और इसे पशुओं पर क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम का हिस्सा बनाने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो० सैफुद्दीन सोज़): (क) जी, हां